The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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SUPPORT 8-HOUR DAY FOR STEEL WORKERS

Philadelphia, Oct. 27.—The eight-hour day for steel workers was supported by the Public Ledger, in a leading editorial this paper says: "Scientific management has overthrown the employers who declare that an eight-hour day is impossible in this industry, and quotes Prof. Frederick W. Lee, in Science,' issue of November 24, 1916:

"Accumulation of output occurs, not only with a reduction to ten, but even to eight hours, whenever men or this are numerous. Thus, the very careful study by Professor Abbe, of the effect of reducing the working day in the Zeiss optical works, in Jena, from nine to eight hours, showed an average increase of about 3 per cent in the daily output of the employes, and certain other work in England reports that each of its machines turns out in eight hours the same amount of work formerly produced in nine hours. In the steel sheet and tin plate trades of South Wales it was found that a similar change from the 12 to the eight hour day the increase of output in the tinning mills amounted to 20 and in the open hearth melting process to 12 1-2 per cent. In the iron puddling the introduction of the eight-hour day into some of the coal mines of South Yorkshire it was found that the production was 'greatly in excess of what was ever produced by an equal number of men on the men working twelve or thirteen hours.'"

The Public Ledger says that labor will not rest until it receives the shorter work day. It says:

Since the middle of the nineteenth century the workers have been demanding it. The numerous strikes in the iron and steel trades have usually composed if this cardinal demand were met. It will be met. When the steel companies accept the principles of it, and that they aid the government in every possible way to bring about an orderly readjustment of their schedules to conform with eight-hour requirements, there will be annoyance and confusion. That must be put up with. Eventually labor is capable of infinitely more mischief than such a reformation of workday hours and short-sighted the reformation will not, as a whole, restrict output.

MILL OWNERS DEFY U. S.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 27.—The Southern California Mill Owners' association has notified the government, through conciliators sent out from the federal department of labor, that it will, in effect, handle its own affairs and that it will not consider any "buttin' in" in a strike caused by higher wage demands.

In reply to mediators — Harris Weinstock and Charles T. Connell—forwarded a stirring telegram to employers, whose executive committee, the mediators say, takes this position:

"That the government has no business to butt into your private affairs through conciliators or otherwise.

"That you as employers propose to increase wages only according to conditions, in your judgment, warrant such increase.

"That under no circumstances, either now or hereafter, will you operate on an eight-hour day unless the whole country adopts such a basis."

Then the mediators say:

"If the government has the power in these days of war to take charge of private establishments, to fix prices for your wares and to draft, as it can commandeer your plants and mine; if it can put a musket into the hands of your sons and brothers and make them physically fit, it certainly, in the interest of national preservation, has a right to butt into your private affairs and mine, through the medium of conciliation, or industrial peace."

REZIN ORR PASSES AWAY

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 27.—Rezin Orr, the beloved and respected treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, died this week at his local hospital. He was taken sick at the recent Providence (R. I.) convention of the association, and at that time closed the active life of a remarkable trade unionist, whose incessant activities, coupled with magnificent stature and sunny disposition are known wherever organized workers are assembled. He was the oldest associate of President Mahon on the official staff of the international association. Starting from the time these officials drove horse cars in Ohio and Indiana, Rezin Orr has been a factor in developing the present magnificent organization of street railway employes that extends throughout this country and Canada.

ANTIS WANT "HELP."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 27.—The Southern Saddlery company is in sorrow need of skilled leather workers these days and hopes, through the aid of the government contracts it cannot secure, because it "can't deliver the goods."

A year ago leather workers employed by this concern organized and several of their number were locked out when they refused to quit the union; others were discharged.

"We have no work, and don't know when work will pick up," was the sign announcement on the factory door, which can't understand why it's employes won't return to work now under non-union shop conditions.

UNIONISTS LOCKED OUT.

Louisville, Ky., Oct. 27.—The Burley Society Tobacco company and the Ryan-Hampton Tobacco company persist in their refusal to end a lockout of union tobacco workers who asked for a wage increase of 10 per cent. The firms demanded that rates be established by the state, then declared for the non-union shop.

The victimized workers are being assisted by the Tobacco Workers' International union and local trade unionists.

REQUISITIONS FACTORIES.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 27.—In France a ministerial decree requisitioning all the munitions factories in France, effective November 25th, has been announced. It is stated that it became necessary to take this action because of the disinclination of the manufacturers to make shoes in the quantities desired by the government. It appears that the government had ordered 300,000 pairs more than it has cared to been receiving a small portion of their order.

MOLDERS WANT MORE.

Detroit, Oct. 26.—Iron Molders' union, No. 24 asks employers to raise wages to $6 for an eight-hour day. The present scale is $4.50 for a nine-hour day. These workers have strengthened their union as a result of a 3 months' organizing campaign of the past several weeks.

LOWER-PRICED FOOD PUT UP TO RETAILER

Washington, Oct. 27.—Now the retailer is the goat. In the words of Who's To Blame for the H. C. of L.?

Herbert Hoover calls attention to the moderate though general decline in the wholesale prices of foodstuffs, and shows that the retailer is not giving the consumer the benefit of these reductions.

In a public statement the federal food administrator says the law gives the food administrator no authority over retail prices, and therefore he must appeal to the retailer himself at one end of the chain, nor over the retailer at the other, but solely over the warehouseman, manufacturer, wholesaler and commission man. These agencies are economically orderly and the reduction of prices will continue, but it is indicated the reductions have not yet made corresponding price reductions.

For example, it is stated that the wholesale price of the patent flour in 706 cities October 13 was $1.50 to $7 a barrel higher than warranted by the price being made by the millers.

Growers of beans, who have a supply of this staff that they can hold to be holding their product at from 13 1-2 to 15 cents a pound, as against 11 1-2 cents a year ago, are following suit.

Beef has shown a small wholesale reduction, the price to retail dealers' doors being 1 1-2 cents a pound less than it was last July, but the average retail price of round steak, cited as one example, in 706 cities has increased 4 cents in that time, making it 5 1-2 cents more than the quotation should pay for it. Cheaper feed for cheaper stock, says the statement, should make meat prices substantially lower before the end of winter.

Referring to sugar, the statement says "the temporary shortage in northeastern states gives no warrant for the retail price, as against more than 9 cents per pound," and adds that only the correction of the situation by the sugar manufacturers and refiners has kept the price under 15 cents a pound.

INSURANCE LAW IN EFFECT.

Washington, D. C., October 27.—The soldiers' and sailors' compensation insurance law has been in effect since October 6th. The rules and regulations governing the operation of this law were published immediately subsequent to passage of the law, and especially prescribed that all American soldiers, sailors and marines, although they are not now in application, will come within the operation of the law automatically until February 12, 1918. All those in the military and naval service who perished with the lost American transport Antilles, destroyed by a submarine October 17, come within the scope of the law automatically and their heirs are automatically entitled to $6,000 each. This sum will be paid into the hands of the widow of soldiers and sailors in monthly installments of $25 each over a period of twenty years. In addition to this compensation which will be paid to widows, children, and dependent mothers of the dead, $10 per month, will be paid $25 insurance and $25 compensation, a total of $50, while the full insurance is a flat maximum in cases where no application for insurance was made, the additional compensation ranges from $25 for a motherless child to a maximum of $75 for all dependents.

INCREASES FOR BAKERS.

Cincinnati, Oct. 27.—The Ward Baking company, which recently signed agreements with the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union, has forwarded this notice to the bakery workers' officials:

"I am sure you will be pleased to be informed that we have made a voluntary increase in the wages of our manufacturing employes at the following plants: Pittsburg No. 1 and 2, Cleveland, Akron, Boston, Providence, Bronx, Brooklyn, and at Newark, Newark being placed on the same basis as Jersey City and Brooklyn. This advance will average slightly better than 10 per cent.

"Believing this will be appreciated by the men, as well as by organized labor, and that the cordial relations existing between our official officers, we assure you of our continued good will."

THREAT BROUGHT COAL.

Philadelphia, October 27.—By refusing to give a switching yard for their locomotives until they agreed to give the right of way to all coal shipments destined to this city, the Director of the Department of Supplies protested to the railroads' refusal to haul coal to the city. "Unless we get coal at once water pumping stations within two days, you will receive no water for your locomotives," the Director of Supplies said to the railroads in part. The ultimatum was delivered one morning, and by evening the switching yards had been called and the Director that coal shipments would be given right of way, thus removing any possibility of a coal famine.

GAINS BY RAILWAY CLERKS.

Cincinnati, Oct. 27.—"More than 4,000 members have been added to our rolls in the last four months and present indications are that we will continue to grow very rapidly," declares the official journal of the Railway Clerk, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

"There seems to be a spontaneous movement among station forces in many sections to get together and use the capacity for assigning organizers to the work has been one of the most difficult problems we have ever confronted our brotherhood," it is stated.

CAN'T INTERFERE IN DRAFT.

Philadelphia, Oct. 27.—Federal Judge Dickinson has ruled that the military authorities are supreme in the determination of eligibles for the national army and that the federal courts cannot interfere.

The decision effectually blocks attempts of many drafted aliens in this vicinity to obtain writs of habeas corpus for their immediate release from the army.

MILK DRIVERS END STRIKE.

New York, Oct. 27.—Hundreds of organized milk wagon drivers employed by the Borden Farm Products company have returned to work. The union is recognized and it was agreed that a joint committee should decide the question of wages. In the event of a deadlock a neutral will make the final decision.

"Labor Scarce Only Where 1914 Living Standards Prevail"

Washington, Oct. 27.—"There is no labor shortage in this territory except for those employers who insist on standards of the year 1914," writes A. W. Jones, director of the Portland (Oregon) public employment bureau, to J. W. Sullivan, assistant to Samuel Gompers, of the advisory committee of national defense.

The letter bristles with denials of the claims by chesty labor advocates, who are charged with attempting to lower working standards and destroy the American labor movement. Director Jones says:

"For the past several years, up to the year 1917, employers of labor in this territory have simply had to say, 'we want a given number of men at a certain price and under conditions,' regardless of price and conditions, and their order could have been readily filled. This condition was brought about by the scarcity of work and the fear of unemployment, and its attendant train of evils, and not at all due to the fact that there was any very large surplus of available labor, more than at the present time.

"We have at this time, and, in fact, during all of this present year, as high a supplying of employment as in any of the years since 1914, but we do notice the change in condition of demand. They use a great deal more discrimination in the selection of the job. Owing to the fact that work is more plentiful, men will not sign up for employment unless the wage and conditions are satisfactory to them.

"During the early part of the present year, certain associations in this territory having in mind the possibility of an upward trend of wages, raised the hue and cry of labor shortage with the view of preventing workers from other districts to this territory.

"My experience has taught me that the average large employer of labor figures that whatever wages may be maintained to the point of satisfaction, that there should be two months' fear of unemployment, and his attendant train of evils, and not at all due to the fact that there was any very large surplus of available labor, more than at the present time.

"We have at this time, and, in fact, during all of this present year, as high a supplying of employment as in any of the years since 1914, but we do notice the change in condition of demand. They use a great deal more discrimination in the selection of the job. Owing to the fact that work is more plentiful, men will not sign up for employment unless the wage and conditions are satisfactory to them.

"We can positively state that at no time this year have we been unable to fill any position that offered the wages and working conditions, were at all reasonable. We, however, had considerable difficulty in filling positions at the 1914 wage scale in view of the cost of 1917 living conditions.

"To our mind there has been shown absolutely no reason why the 8-hour work day law, recently women, should be repealed. On the contrary, we think that better service might be given were this reduced to eight hours.

"We have seen no reason why the age limit protecting children, should be reduced.

"We have seen no time, regardless

'EFFICIENCY' SYSTEM ENDED AT U. S. PLANT

Washington, Oct. 27.—There is sunshine in the homes of over 250 leather workers employed in the government's Rock Island (Ill.) arsenal as a result of secretary of War Baker's order, ordering the following changes in its establishment.

Abolishment of an "efficiency" system.

Piece work prices to be re-arranged on the basis of 50 cents an hour for day's work, with the men to have a voice in setting piece work rates.

Time and one-half pay for work up to $2.75 a day replaced by the Leather Workers' union's 20-cents an hour minimum.

The order raises wages $1.25 a day in some cases besides recognizing the union wage scale as a standard. These gains were secured through the persistence of Max Kaplan, agent of the United Leather Workers' International union, who has been in this city for several months effecting the light for better conditions.

The "efficiency" system was especially unfair as it provided for piece work and day work employes working side by side on the same article or class of work.

"To illustrate the workings of the old system," Kaplan explained, "as nearly as possible," said President Bryan, "let us suppose an operative in time work in the shop earns $2.50 under this system earns $1.25 a day. Then suppose he used every ounce of energy he possessed and earned $1.50 or $1.75. In the latter case he would have violated a provision of the management that $1.25 a day is the limit and he would be put on day work at $2.50 until the average was reduced to that figure.

"The classification of workers was subject to change at any time. Whether if a worker was slated for reduction he was informed, through a friend at court, or by some 'pointa,' and that if he objected to the change his only recourse was a letter to the officer in charge giving reasons for his objections. As the average worker is not equipped to take up his cudgels in that character through correspondence, he was compelled to accept the decision.

"Under Secretary of War Baker's decision this scheme is abolished and the workers will now have the incentive to assist in setting piece work prices."

WHAT ELSE COULD HE DO.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 27.—Federal Judge Humphrey has ruled that pickets in the St. Louis Smelting and Refining company strike at Collinsville can no longer picket peacefully, and if the man does not want to talk he has a perfect right not to. The court has ruled that it is unlawful for a picket to molest a strikebreaker who insists on entering the plant.

The strikers say Judge Humphrey has told them nothing new, and that accepts the injunction, which is entirely unnecessary, they will continue their fight for improved conditions.

The strike was called in August when the company began victimizing members of the metal trades union and refused to reinstate these employes. State officials are attempting to adjust the difficulty, which involves over 500 employes.

Collinsville, Ill., Oct. 27.—Armed strikebreakers employed by the St. Louis Smelting and Refining company of the Ship Builders' association to attend a mass meeting of their employes. In their intelligence reports said:

"It will be expected to put your side of the controversy squarely before the men together with a authoritative statement from the company what you propose to offer as a settlement. In the interest of the government of the United States, the public and the workers, we are hopeful of your acceptance of this invitation."

The mass meeting was well attended but the seats on the platform provided for the representatives of the Ship Builders' association were not occupied. The employers, however, confined their advertisements in the daily press in which the public is told of the unreasonable demands of the ship yards workers.

TAKE OUT WAR INSURANCE.

Washington, Oct. 27.—Uncle Sam is doing a rushing business since he has announced that he will aid in insurance to his boys in the military service at the rate of $1 per $1,000 amounts up to $10,000. It is stated that $18,000,000 worth of insurance has been written in the first month and a week of treasury officials, army and navy officials and soldiers' representatives. Applications have come from cantonments the 120 delegates applied for a total of $2,500,000 worth. The real rush will begin when these delegates return to their posts and tell their comrades what the insurance plan really is.

$9.43 A WEEK IS MINIMUM.

New York, Oct. 27.—A comparison of food prices in cities and towns of the 13th country by the health department shows that cheapest food for a family of five, consisting of man, wife and three children, is $9.43 a week. This does not include clothes, fuel, light, recreation, education and the many necessities that are necessary to a normal life.

The report acknowledges that "the men and women in cities and towns are not especially benefited."

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Conshohocken, Pa., Oct. 27.—Boiler Makers' union No. 56 has signed an agreement with the Wood Boiler company which provides for

RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT.

Washington, Oct. 27.—The Public, in its issue of the 19th, prints an article declaring that the statement supporting the president in the conduct of the war. It refers to the relationship existing between the government and organized labor as follows:

"Organized labor and the principle of collective bargaining have secured recognition and support as never before in the history of the country. The government has abandoned its neutrality in labor disputes. In war supplies or in supplementary agreements has imposed union conditions and collective bargaining upon employers who were only recently boasting that their business could be carried on before they would submit to what they termed 'union dictation.' Mr. Gompers has been given space in these columns, but his support of the government, his generalship in taking advantage of the war to strengthen unionism and international democracy at the same stroke, place him far above those radical and disloyal opposition to the crisis has been negative and drifting, ineffectual and impotent in power. The spread of industrial democracy during the past six months is a guide to the tremendous effect of government's abandonment of neutrality as between industrial absolutism and industrial democracy in collective bargaining. Secretary Baker has had time to grasp from a Herculean military task to install as his confidential advisors such well-grounded radicals as Walter Lippmann, Felix Frankfurter, and they have aided in formulating and executing a labor policy in the matter of conscription of labor itself has planned. Mr. Wilson himself found time to pause in his consideration of military and diplomatic problems long enough to appoint a commission of conservative democratic unionists and employers to study the Western labor situation and find means of settlement by methods than deportations and prosecutions."

MINERS TO LEAVE COUNTRY.

Clifton, Ariz., Oct. 27.—The Arizona copper companies have closed the entrances to its mines with cement, and has made the public declaration that it will not open them indefinitely. Arizona furnishes over one-third of the copper produced in the United States, and the United States produces 63 per cent of all the copper supplies of the entire world. The Mexican miners of Clifton, Morenci and Metcalf who are members of the Western Federation of Miners, have been notified by President Wilson that they will be permitted to leave the country, in spite of the blacklists and oppression of the copper companies, and that there is no right to abide by the decision of the commission recently appointed to investigate the conditions in the mines and which visited Arizona, and to return to work pending the decision of the commission. This is the first published declaration of the copper companies to close the mines. The Mexicans have made application to the Mexican government to take them back to their homes. Before them are some 14,000 Mexican miners.

WOULD NOT MEET STRIKERS.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 27.—Striking shipyard workers have been notified members of the Ship Builders' association to attend a mass meeting of their employes. In their invitation to the strikers said:

"In view of the fact that corporation-judge-made injunction laws are being used to destroy all labor organizations, and that the open shop principle is threatened, the council, realizing that drastic action will be necessary to save the situation, unanimously decided to call for a referendum vote of all unions to ascertain how many will be willing to in the future ignore all such injunction orders as are calculated to break up the trade union organization. You are therefore requested to take a vote and immediately notify this office of the result."

STATE OFFERS FREE LAND.

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 27.—The state forestry commissioner calls attention to the offer of his department made several years ago that any citizen or person of this state may farm land in the state forestry reservations. Under the plan the applicant may enter upon a reservation anywhere in Pennsylvania and clear as many acres as he desires, selling the trees, but he has the land cleared he may remain in possession indefinitely, provided that he will not be permitted to stay in such a manner that he could ever acquire title to the land, except by purchase or taxation. There are thousands of acres of valuable land controlled by the forestry commission.

OIL WORKERS ACTIVE.

Fort Arthur, Tex., Oct. 27.—At a conference of Texas and Louisiana oil field workers here this week, which was appointed with instructions to request oil producers and operators to meet them in conference with them to discuss improved working conditions. The proposed agreement, if it is not given recognition, the eight-hour day and increased wages.

SHOP MEN SUSPEND WORK.

Tyler, Tex., Oct. 27.—Practically every department in the shops of the Cotton Belt railroad system is paralyzed as the result of a strike of these employes.

TAILORS RAISE WAGES.

Hoquiam, Wash., Oct. 27.—The Tailors' union has succeeded in negotiating a higher wage scale with merchant tailors. The new scale will

UNIONS' DEMAND UPHELD

Seattle, Oct. 27.—At a hearing before the special commission appointed by the United States shipping board to adjust differences between shipyard workers and their employers, Hollis Rodgers, superintendent of the Skinner and Eddy yards, denied that his plant was guilty of unfair "piratings" that is, of attracting mechanics away from competing plants by offering higher wages. Rodgers and players assured the commission that the Skinner and Eddy yard was living up to their agreement with the union. Rodgers' denial appeared only half-hearted and he practically refused the fact that his company has maintained its labor machinery intact, thereby getting a world's record pace in shipbuilding. He openly expressed contempt for the methods of non-union employers who "steal mechanics from shoppers" and announced his friendship for unions. He said that the wage scale demanded and now paid at his yard under the new agreement, increases the cost of the ship only $7 a ton and that the new scale which was even less than some of his competitors pay, has greatly increased him in turning out ships at a profit.

The workers produced statistics to prove that living costs have been increased approximately 50 per cent during the past three years. State Labor Commissioner Younger testified that living costs had advanced 25% per cent at April 15 last, with further increases since that time. Two merchants testified that clothing has advanced 50 per cent during the past three years, and that fuel increases are sure to come this winter. Other merchants contributed similar testimony and all agreed that the high prices have advanced the quality of goods has decreased.

VOLL RE-ELECTED.

Cincinnati, Oct. 27.—John A. Voll was unanimously re-elected president of the Ohio state federation of labor, despite his determination to give his duties as president of the Glass Bottle Blowers association, which will permit him to be a candidate. He has held this office for eight years. Secretary-treasurer Chamberlain was also re-elected unanimously and Akron was chosen as the next convention city.

The convention declared for the enactment of a state law to include the principles of the Clayton law, the amendment of the Sherman anti-trust law, and declared that it will not accept the government in the present war. Other resolutions were: Establishment of work pay day in Ohio; enactment of a barbers' license law; state ownership of ropes and building scaffolds; the initiation of workmen and operatives in the workmen's compensation act; amendment to the workman's compensation act to provide for the protection of victims of occupational diseases.

OPPOSE INJUNCTIONS.

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 27.—Injunctions against labor have increased to such an extent that the Tacoma labor council is asking affiliates to vote whether they are willing to defy these injunctions. Boycotts, strikes, picket writs.

Local locals have been asked to express an opinion on the following resolution:

"In view of the fact that corporation-judge-made injunction laws are being used to destroy all labor organizations, and that the open shop principle is threatened, the council, realizing that drastic action will be necessary to save the situation, unanimously decided to call for a referendum vote of all unions to ascertain how many will be willing to in the future ignore all such injunction orders as are calculated to break up the trade union organization. You are therefore requested to take a vote and immediately notify this office of the result."

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TRADE UNION LOGIC USED BY MEDICAL MEN

Washington, Oct. 27.—The United States public health service has issued in pamphlet form a report on "Occupation and Mortality," compiled by Dr. Shirley Wilmotte Wynes and Dr. William H. Guilfoy, of the department of health, New York city.

The following portion of the report reads like a trade union argument:

"We believe that wages have a most important bearing upon the morbidity and mortality of any occupation, because, where real wages are high, the standard of living is correspondingly high, housing is better, food is more plentiful and more nourishing; and, in short, conditions are more favorable for physical and mental well being, which results in greater resistance to disease, more recuperative power, and a healthier enjoyment of life, all of which stimulates the worker to greater health and makes him more alert to guard against accidents; whereas, when wages are low, conditions are just the reverse and unfavorable, and it, in addition, shop conditions are bad, as they frequently are, the hazards of any occupation are increased manifold.

"There still remains another important factor that must not be overlooked, to-wit, the mental condition of the employe. He lives and works in squalor and semi-darkness, he gradually loses his self respect, grows careless of his health. Decadence follows apace, and in short, lacks incentive to conserve his health, and, therefore, becomes a victim of many ailments, becomes a hazard in any occupation."

TOBACCO TAX EFFECTIVE.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 27.—As a result of the war tax, the cost of the general rise in price of all commodities upon which this tax has been levied. For instance, tobacco prices have gone up in response to the new war revenue law which went into effect October 4. The tobacco dealer has to pay new taxes on what stock he had October 4, and the consumer will be required to report on the inventory until November 2. As a consequence, the tobacco dealer has already put up his prices. Prices on many other commodities have been raised by the manufacturers, and the law is not effective until a later date. Especially is this the case in the wares vended by drug stores. Many increases in this line of products of course are anticipated, but the retailers to a considerable extent are not to blame for anticipation of the law, the wholesale manufacturers having put up their prices and the retailers have had to pay them and transmit the increase to the retail customers.

"HELPING" DOESN'T HELP.

Seattle, Oct. 27.—The theory that workers should be "helped" is given this editorial jolt by Editor Ault of the Seattle Union Record:

"One of the few real thoughts expressed by Secretary Ambassador Gerard in his speech in Seattle, was that the German system of benefits for workers in reality deprived the workers instead of bettering their conditions. He knew how to well enough fasten the German system of state control of all forms of social activities on the people, but he was careful to be well for labor itself to be mighty careful how it commits itself on such matters without a careful study of conditions. We have before us advantages the control of the post office employes as horrible examples."

KEY MEN WIN FIRST STRIKE.

Chicago, Oct. 27.—Most trade unionists would be impatient if their international union, after a long existence, failed to win a strike. But this has been the experience of the commercial Telegraphers' union of North America, whose president, S. J. Konenkamp, announces that the following key men have won their first strike and that the Great Northwestern Telegraph company of Duluth has been forced grant all that its men struck for, including increase in wages. Ninety-five per cent of these employes suspended work, and it was this solidity that produced results.

DEFEAT CONSPIRACY CLAIM.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 27.—The Kings county court has dismissed conspiracy charges against members of the Carpenters' union who were indicted on complaint of Leslie Rosecrt & Sons, contractors, engaged in building operations.

This concern was defeated in the state court of appeals recently in the same fight to stop opposition to its non-union methods, which the carpenters decline to handle.

OPPOSE NIGHT WORK.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 27.—Bakers in this province, the system of night baking in this city is undermining their health. The bakers are preparing a settlement in favor of daylight work.

WANT NINE-HOUR DAY.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Oct. 27.—Organized teamsters are asking for a nine-hour day and time and one-half for overtime to replace the long working system of 12, 13 and 14 hours.

COOKS FORM UNION.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 27.—Cooks and their assistants have organized and joined the long list of trade union

SOCIAL INSURANCE NOT COMPENSATION

Cincinnati, Oct. 27.—The claim that there is no difference in the theories of workmen's compensation and compulsory state social insurance is denied by John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal.

"There is no analogy whatever," he writes, "between the compulsion of a workman's compensation act, which is not overhead charge in any industry, and the workers' compulsory membership in a state sick insurance scheme, which in one is a charge transferred to the worker's product, and the other is a mandatory command by the state to those whom the state designates as wage earners.

"A wave favoring compulsory legislation for this and that condition, which in the course of events will benefit the people, is spreading over this country.

"With increasing number of Americans, seemingly unacquainted with the fundamentals of democracy and democracy in human rights and liberties, upon which our institutions are founded, are demanding compulsion of this, and compulsory that, for all of the social and industrial ills. Imaginary and colossal ills.

"With more democracy and more service on the part of those and those who are exploited under the present industrial system, there would be ample opportunity for the social reformers who desire to have the government force their cure-all upon the wage earners.

"There are quite a few well-meaning people in the country occupying prominent executive positions in the industries, who believe that wage earners should be driven to work from the profound reservoirs of their knowledge of happiness, determine just what kind of happiness and how much happiness will do the workers the most good, after which they proceed to force their kind of happiness upon the worker, whether he wants it or not."

MUST OBSERVE CONTRACT.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 27.—Miners' strikes in this state, in violation of contracts, have caused Governor Lowden, president of the Illinois branch, United Mine Workers, to issue this statement to officials:

"Where mines are idle in your district, notify members that unless they are back to work not later than Monday morning their local charters will be revoked, also stop issuance of transfer cards. There is no hope of forcing the government to act by suspending work at this time. Instead their conduct will in all likelihood bring about unfavorable consideration of our members. Great overwhelming majority of members have decided to continue at work. Send copies of these telegrams pledging fidelity to the organization and to the government and promising to remain at work and await action of Dr. Garfield on wage increase. I do not propose to have the interests of the many jeopardized by a comparatively few members in the organization to continue a policy that will result in industrial conscription. These instructions are imperative."

DENIES LABOR SHORTAGE.

Newark, N. J., Oct. 27.—"There is no labor shortage in this city," declares Henry H. Hilfers, secretary of the Essex county board.

"I know of a fuse factory in our midst," he says, "that pays from 25 to 200 men are in line daily applying for work. The cry that they cannot manufacture fuses fast enough is the price they want to pay for it prevents men from accepting employment. Perhaps they cannot afford to pay the chemical plant down on Canary island, where blackbirds are turned into yellow birds and where a man risks his life for from 25 to 30 cents an hour. Railroads are working over 10 hours a day for $2. In the big plants down on the meadows common laborers are receiving 22 cents an hour. It's pretty tough to be a patriot on wages of $2 a day with bacon 60 cents a pound."

WOMEN TO SELL TICKETS.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 27.—It is reported 16 railway circles that the Union Pacific Railway at Omaha will soon be employing women ticket-sellers for the entire service of the company. It is said that this change has been started to train women for these positions, because of scarcity of men. The company apparently is anticipating that the war's requirements for men will be greater than employes. Other training schools for this class of work are under consideration.

SANTA FE'S BIG PROFITS.

New York, Oct. 27.—Increased operating costs and additional taxation has not affected the prosperity of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, whose annual report shows operating revenues have increased more than $2,000,000 over the preceding year. Operating expenses have increased to the extent of about half of this amount. In round numbers the company now has $51,000,000 with which to pay bond interest and dividends and to improve the property. This is about $6,312,000 more than the preceding year.

CANNERY WORKERS UNITE.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 27.—Employes of the American Can company are organizing. One of these workers was killed at Oswego and a banner in front of the plant announcing a meeting. The company has refused to recognize the unions by announcing that any one who attends union meetings will be discharged.

WANT GUN MEN DISARMED.

San Francisco, Oct. 27.—Wives of striking United Railroads motormen and conductors and wives of other trade unionists are circulating petitions asking for the disarmament and enforcement of laws against armed strikebreakers and gun men and the enforcement of the law demanding law in the company's car barns.

JUSTICE FOR NEGROES.

Cincinnati, Oct. 27.—The central labor council demands that justice be accorded negroes who have been lured to the north by the employment agents. The unionists insist that the black man be paid a living wage to support his family and him in establishing new home ties.

CITY MAY HANDLE FOOD.

New York, Oct. 27.—The new city commissioner of markets has asked Mayor Mitchel to request the state legislature to empower the city to purchase, store and sell perishable food and fuel to consumers. Food and fuel is scarce and high in price.

ARIZONA METAL MINERS ORGANIZE ON HILL SIDE

Washington, Oct. 27.—Denied a hall by the copper operators, 8,000 Mexican metal miners met at night on the side of a hill and pledged allegiance to the American Federation of Labor, is the stirring message from Clifton, Arizona, John Murray sends to President Gompers.

Murray is secretary of the Pan-American federation of labor conference committee, which is uniting the workers of Central and South America in the workers of the World's American continent. He's practically unanimous vote, he says, the 8,000 miners, who are on strike at Clifton, Morenci and Metcalf, favored affiliation with the Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers' International union.

Murray says, continues Murray, "that the existence of the connection committee, with its spirit of practical International fraternity, was a big factor in bringing these 8,000 Mexican miners into direct and cooperative affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. The necessity for conforming to the principles and rules of the labor movement of this country in which the workers reside, irrespective of nationality, was a theme dwelt upon by the Mexican speakers at these three most impressive meetings. After three hours' meeting at all three meetings—the Metcalf meeting commenced at 4 and ended at 7—a motion to adjourn without a final show of hands was taken but not a hand was seen. From six upon hill side, the companies refusing to rent ground for a hall. But the result of the vote was entirely more gratifying, showing that this united action was taken with every unanimity when over one-half that the Mexican miners see the failure of I. W. W. methods. Secretary Wynne, of the entire 14,000 Mexican miners in Arizona in their international. There are 8,000 in Clifton and Morenco in New Mexico.

"It should be remembered that these three unions offered to go back to work pending the arrival and decision of the president's commission, but the copper companies refused to employ the men unless they could enforce the blacklist. The men stayed out, and the mines are closed down at the present writing."

TO WRITE HOME.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 27.—Owing to the fact that it has been necessary for officials to avoid unnecessary sacrifice of life in the transporting of soldiers dead to their homes, a new rule has been observed. Considerable criticism has been directed to the War Department with reference to the communication between soldiers and their families in the event of death. To avoid this criticism, Secretary Baker has directed that hereafter every soldier who embarks for or is abroad will be required to write a postal card to his next of kin informing them that the relative of his safe arrival. It is believed that this plan, in addition to the home service instituted by the Red Cross, the establishment of the stateliest division of the Adjutant General's office to furnish information for individuals in the military service where relatives are missing, and soldiers may obtain the latest news concerning them and the renewal of the promise to the government that when the press 'promptly with news of any catastrophe or casualty, will relieve the fears of many anxious worry of the relatives of those soldiers who are ordered for service abroad.

U. S. CONTRACTORS GOUGE.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 27.—The Ohio branch of the council of national defense warns workers that the United States' interventions by certain government contractors. It is stated that many contractors have as yet not fulfilled promises with the result that workers have left this state to work in other states for more pay and money. It is urged that workers are contemplating emigration because of connection with contentment building and other government contracts, and that they receive assurance from government officials as to wages, cost of board, etc.

Persons who have left their permanent jobs outside the state are warned to pay no attention to offers of employment unless the representatives of the concerns they have been working for are willing to abide by the decision of the council of national defense.

SUBWAY EMPLOYS WOMEN.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 27.—Women are being employed as station guards on the Brooklyn surface transportation system in this city. These guards are not conductors or motormen on the street cars, except they do not handle tickets, which are deposited before the passengers enter the cars. Women are also being employed as cashiers in connection with contentment building and other government contracts, and they receive assurance from government officials as to wages, cost of board, etc.

STEEL WORKERS STRIKE.

Beaver, Pa., Oct. 27.—Refusal of employers to grant increases in wages to workers of the Cold Drawn Steel Workers' union has resulted in a strike of over 2,000 workers. The present wage is a month ago the men asked for an increase of 10 cents an hour and the 8-hour day. The men have been promised to give a definite answer within 10 days. They will be satisfied with 5 cents an hour and the 8-hour week.

NUB OF COAL PROBLEM.

Washington, Oct. 27.—At a conference of anthracite coal operators and Dr. H. A. Garfield, federal fuel administrator, it is said to be certain that the mines have already produced 8,868,000 tons more of hard coal than at the same time last year. It was agreed that the hardest problem is that of distribution.

R. R. CLERKS STRIKE.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 27.—Following the recent strike of clerks on the railroad leading to the Seaboard Air Line, similar workers on the Atlantic Coast Line railroad have struck and the Jacksonville Fire and Marine have suspended work to enforce better conditions.

MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE.

Middletown, Ohio, Oct. 27.—Machinists employed by the Kanawha and Michigan railroad have won their strike and raised wages to the southeastern rate of 28 1-2 cents an hour.

UPHOLSTERERS GAIN.

Toronto, Ont., Oct. 27.—Upholsterers employed by the Toronto Furniture company have won their strike for a 9-hour day and increased wages.